

The freedom and fairness of our broadcasting system has been severely threatened. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Thus, I believe that immediate action is needed to protect the integrity of our press and our fairness in broadcasting laws.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies such as Sinclair control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. They also show why the FCC should act now and demonstrate that it takes its public protection mandate seriously. Thank you.